CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY   Siam

SUBJECT   Possible Split in "Clique" Group

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ORIGIN
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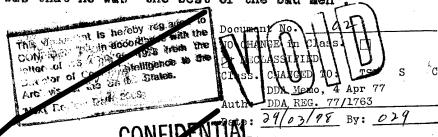
SUPPLEMENT   ✓

1. The return of Prince Sakel Varnakara Varavarn, adviser to the Sahacheep party, from the International Labor Organization conference in Montreal may precipitate an expected split in the pre-Pridi political clique.

2. Prince Sakel vehemently opposed the selection of Thamrong Navasvasti as Premier to succeed Pridi. He argued Thamrong's unsavory reputation among politicians and even among the general populace would harm the prestige of the coup d'etat group.

3. Nai Pridi was aware of this anti-Thamrong feeling, but felt that of the men available through whom he could work, Thamrong was the most capable, despite his record of opportunism. When the decision was reached to elect Thamrong, Prince Sakel resigned from the Sahacheep party. Othersthreatened to do likewise, but all were induced to remain, at least for the time being, to present a united front against Democratic party opposition. Prince Sakel did not withdraw his resignation; he postponed it.

4. Prince Sakel is expected upon his return to Bangkok, scheduled for late September, to attempt to rally anti-Thamrong elements to unseat Thamrong as Premier, if this can be done without sacrificing control of the government.

5. A common saying at the Sahacheep conference that selected Thamrong was that he was "the best of the bad men".

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ADSO		A DEP		X	FBT		SPDF		VTO							
DADSO		FBK			FBV		SPDS		B DEP.							
EXEC.	X	FBL			FBX		SPD		CFCB							
CONTROL																
PLANS	X	FBP			SPDA		TRB									